

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MEDAN AKSARA ORPHAN FRIENDS DORMITORY IN IMPLEMENTING ISLAMIYAH VALUES AND FORMING A GENERATION OF AKHLAKUL KARIMAH

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ABSTRACT

The application of Islamic values in dormitory management plays an important role in forming a generation with good morals. This research aims to explore how the dormitory management applies Islamic values in forming a generation with good morals. In addition, this study also analyzes the parenting system applied and its effectiveness in shaping the character of foster children. Using a qualitative method through interviews with the head of the dormitory, this study examines the role of caregivers, the dormitory environment, and the educational programs applied. The results of the study show that an approach based on Islamic education, discipline habituation, and a reward and punishment system play an important role in building children's character. In addition, the presence of competent caregivers and appropriate coaching methods are key factors in the success of the boarding program. This study provides insight into the importance of a holistic approach in the care of orphans to support their development optimally.

Keywords: Orphan care, Islamic education, character building.

INTRODUCTION

The application of Islamic values in dormitory management plays an important role in forming a generation with good morals. The Medan Aksara Orphan Dormitory is an example of an institution that seeks to integrate these values in its management. This research aims to explore how the dormitory management applies Islamic values in forming a generation with good morals.

Akhlakul karimah, or noble morals, is the core of Islamic teachings that emphasize commendable behavior in daily life. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of good morals, as in Surah Al-A'raf verse 199:

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ ﴿١٩٩﴾

"Be forgiving and tell people to do what is right, and turn away from fools."

Surah Al-A'raf verse 199 is a verse that contains an important message about noble morals in interacting with others. Surah Al-A'raf verse 199 teaches three main principles in building character and social interaction: Forgive others for their mistakes. Invite kindness and good ethics. Do not respond to stupidity with stupidity, but face it with a calm and wise attitude. This verse instills the values of patience, wisdom, and wisdom, which are very important in personal life and in society. This verse teaches three main aspects: forgiving, inviting kindness, and avoiding arguing with people who do not have knowledge.

The importance of moral karimah is also reflected in the hadith of the Prophet PBUH which states that there is nothing heavier in the scales of a believer on the Day of Resurrection than noble morals. This shows that good morals have a very high value in Islam and are an indicator of one's faith (Johansyah, 2017).

Effective dormitory management can be a means to instill Islamic values in the residents. This approach includes the development of educational programs that focus on character building, the

application of discipline in accordance with Islamic teachings, and the creation of an environment that supports the practice of daily worship. According to research (Malik et al., 2024), internalizing the moral value of karimah in students can be done through example, habituation, and giving advice.

Previous research has shown that a conducive environment and structured educational programs can improve the understanding and practice of Islamic values among adolescents. This is in line with the goal of the Medan Aksara Orphan Dormitory in forming a generation with good morals through an Islamic management approach. For example, research (Karim et al., 2024) It shows that the reconstruction of the moral values of Karimah in male students can increase the understanding and practice of these values.

The implementation of Islamic values in dormitory management also involves the active role of the management in providing a good example. This example includes honesty, trustworthiness, and fairness, all of which are part of the morals of karimah. Thus, the dormitory administrator not only plays the role of a manager, but also an educator and role model for the residents. Research (Fadilah et al., 2022) emphasizing the importance of the role of dormitory administrators in shaping the character of students through the implementation of the Islamic religious education curriculum that emphasizes moral character.

In addition, the involvement of dormitory residents in social and religious activities can strengthen the understanding and practice of Islamic values. Activities such as routine recitation, congregational prayers, and social service can be an effective means of instilling moral karimah. Studies on student management in the internalization of Islamic values show that structured extracurricular activities can help students internalize these values (Sinta, 2024).

Periodic evaluation of dormitory programs and activities is important to ensure that the goal of establishing moral character is achieved. Feedback from residents and administrators can be used to improve the effectiveness of the program and adjust the educational strategy according to needs. For example, research from (Savitri & Laila, 2024) about student management through the boarding weekend program at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Sirampog, Brebes, emphasizing the importance of evaluation in improving the quality of the dormitory program.

With a management approach based on Islamic values, the Friends of Orphans Dormitory Medan Aksara has the potential to become a model in the formation of a young generation with good morals. This effort is not only beneficial for individual residents, but also for the wider community in creating a harmonious and ethical environment.

The application of Islamic values in dormitory management plays an important role in forming a generation with good morals. The Friends of Orphans Medan Aksara Dormitory is a real example of an institution that is committed to integrating these values in its management.

METHODS

The research method used in this study is a qualitative method with a case study approach (Scott, 2017). This research focuses on an in-depth analysis of the management of the Friends of Orphans Dormitory Medan Aksara in implementing Islamic values and forming a generation with good morals. The main data collection technique used was an in-depth interview with the head of the dormitory as a key informant. The interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner to explore a deep understanding of management strategies, the challenges faced,

and the impact of the application of Islamic values in the formation of student character. In addition, additional data was collected through direct observation of dormitory activities as well as documentation related to the policies and coaching programs implemented.

The data obtained from the interviews will be analyzed using thematic analysis techniques, where the results of the interviews are categorized based on the main themes that emerged in the research. The validity of the data is maintained by triangulating sources, namely comparing the results of the interviews with observations and supporting documents. In addition, the member checking technique is used by asking the head of the dormitory to review the results of the interview to ensure the accuracy of the data interpretation. With this approach, the research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of dormitory management management in forming students with good morals in accordance with Islamic values.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Interview Results with Zarkasih Nasution, Head of the Nursing Dormitory of the Friends of Orphans Medan Branch

Zarkasih Nasution explained that the Orphan Friends Dormitory started from a community of young people who like to share with the surrounding environment, especially to orphans, the poor, and the poor. *"The Orphan Friends Foundation was established in 2009 in Tangerang. Initially, we were only in the form of a foundation that was engaged in collecting infaq and alms from the community,"* he said. Along with increasing public trust, the donations collected are getting bigger. This prompted the community to establish a foundation under the name Sahabat Yatim.

The Friends of Orphans Dormitory itself was only established in 2012 in Tangerang, while in Medan, the dormitory has been operating since 2019. Previously, in 2018, the existence of Orphan Friends in Medan was only in the form of a service office for fundraising and donations. *"This dormitory was established because the community often questions where the donations collected are channeled. With the dormitory, the donor's trust is getting stronger,"* he explained. In 2021, the Orphan Friends Foundation received permission from the Ministry of Religion to become a National Amil Zakat Institution. Currently, the Orphan Friends Dormitory has three branches in Medan, namely in Aksara for the care of sons, in Sunggal Jalan Amal for the care of daughters, and in Johor Jalan Karya Kasih which is also specifically for daughters. Meanwhile, its service office is located on Jalan HM Yamin.

Regarding the vision and mission, Zarkasih explained that this institution has a big purpose. *"Our vision is to become the leading amil zakat institution in Indonesia. We are engaged in several fields, namely collection, empowerment, education, and nurturing,"* he said. The nurturing field is carried out through dormitories spread across various regions, the collection field is carried out through service offices, and the education field is managed from the head office in Tangerang.

At the Friends of Orphans Dormitory, Medan Aksara focuses on three management functions that are implemented: Planning is the initial stage in management which involves the preparation of programs and strategies to achieve the desired goals. Implementation in the Determination Dormitory is like the goal of character, namely setting specific goals related to the formation of morals, such as honesty, discipline, and compassion. Then planning routine activities such as compiling a daily schedule that includes congregational prayers, tahfiz, tahsin, and social activities.

Directing Directing involves providing guidance and motivation to foster children to follow a predetermined plan. The form of implementation in the Dormitory is spiritual and moral guidance such as providing direction through lectures, discussions, and direct learning. The example of the Administrator, namely the dormitory administrator, is an example in daily behavior that reflects Islamic values. Involvement in social activities is inviting foster children to be active in social activities as a form of practicing Islamic values.

Evaluation is the process of assessing the effectiveness of programs and activities that have been implemented. The implementation in the Dormitory is such as periodic assessments evaluating the spiritual and moral development of foster children on a regular basis. Feedback and Feedback provide constructive feedback to foster children for continuous improvement. Program improvements, adjust and improve programs based on evaluation results to achieve better goals.

The parenting program at the Orphan Friends Dormitory is structured with a curriculum and activities, including:

1. Basic Needs: Fulfillment of the needs of clothing, food, shelter, and health costs for foster children. Who receive compensation from donors or the community.
2. Formal and Religious Education: Children receive formal education according to their level as well as Islamic religious education, including tahsin and tahfidz of the Qur'an. The tahfidz and tahsin Al-Qur'an program is carried out twice a week, this program must be followed by children if there are those who do not follow it will be given punishment such as writing verses of the Qur'an that will be memorized, memorizing verses of the Qur'an that will be deposited at that time or cleaning the dormitory. In addition, if the children are diligent in participating in tahfidz and tahsin activities, they will get a reward which once every three months they will receive a report card. For the child who gets the best score, he will receive a reward from the headquarters of the orphan friend in the form of cash.
3. Development of Potential and Confidence: Through sports activities, the arts, and emotional support from caregivers, children are given the opportunity to explore their interests and talents, which can increase confidence and academic achievement. The activities include hadroh which is carried out during free time. And there are also martial arts activities that are carried out outside the dormitory. In this activity program, children are not required to participate in these activities, so in this program there is no such thing as punishment or rewards that the child receives.
4. Structured Daily Activities: From waking up to going back to sleep, children follow a daily schedule that includes study time, worship, meals, breaks and dormitory cleanliness pickets. Here the children are controlled by the caregivers and from these daily activities the caregiver can assess the development of the child both in terms of worship, social and others.

In managing daily activities in the dormitory, caregivers have a broader role than a teacher. *"In this field of parenting, caregivers must be able to play the role of teachers, parents, as well as friends for children,"* said Zarkasih. The caregivers are equipped with parenting knowledge through coaching and training organized by the management of Orphan Friends. *"We hold seminars, webinars, and trainings both online and in person at the head office. With this provision, caregivers can apply the right parenting methods for children,"* he added.

Islamic values are the main guideline in the management of the dormitory. However, Friends

of Orphans deliberately do not use the term "orphanage" so that children do not feel inferior. *"We want to eliminate the mindset that living in an orphanage has a negative stigma. Therefore, we conceptualized this dormitory like a house so that children feel comfortable and do not feel different from other children,"* he explained. Each dormitory also limits the number of children in its care, which is no more than 15 people. *"The average number of children in each dormitory is 10 to 13 people. This is so that caregivers can give maximum attention,"* he added.

To build an Islamic environment, children are accustomed to living a disciplined life in accordance with Islamic teachings from waking up to returning to sleep. *"Our children go to Islamic schools that instill Islamic principles. While in the dormitory, they are also accustomed to praying in congregation, reading the Qur'an, and undergoing the tahfidz program,"* he said. In addition, caregivers also instill manners in children. *"They must ask for permission before taking goods, either from the refrigerator or from other places. This is to train good manners and habits from an early age,"* he added.

Caregivers also play a role in guiding children to understand and practice Islamic teachings in daily life. *"We emphasize that kindness must be forced at first, so that later it becomes a habit,"* said Zarkasih. According to him, if it is not forced, children tend not to be used to practicing Islamic values with discipline.

In the Moral Circle at the Medan Aksara Orphan Friends Dormitory, moral development is the main foundation in children's daily lives. They are guided to instill the values of manners, manners, and respect through daily activities. One of the main habits that is applied is the necessity for each child to say goodbye and say hello to Abi and Umi every time they want to leave the dormitory, either to go to school or to participate in other activities outside. When returning to the dormitory, they are also required to say greetings again as a form of respect and closeness to the caregivers.

In addition, before taking food, the children must first ask permission from Abi and Umi. It is not allowed to take food carelessly without the permission of the caregiver, in order to form an orderly attitude and respect the rules. The ethics of mutual respect are also instilled in the relationship between friends. If they want to borrow or use a friend's belongings, they must first ask for permission. This teaches children to take care of other people's property rights and to establish relationships that care and respect each other, just like between siblings.

Not only in the dormitory environment, these moral values also continue to be carried and applied by children when they are outside, including at school and in the community. Children are taught to be polite to teachers, local residents, and older people. They are also encouraged to actively help the surrounding environment, such as maintaining cleanliness, participating in social activities, and showing a polite and friendly attitude in daily interactions. Fostering Children's Islamic Character Through Example, Manners, and Socio-Religious Activities. In order to instill Islamic values from an early age, we are committed to educating children to grow up to be noble, civilized, and socially responsible individuals for others. This coaching is carried out through various approaches, both through daily habits, examples, and active involvement in religious and social activities.

Inculcating the Values of Manners and Morals from an Early Age. We teach children to always respect their elders, such as parents, teachers, and community leaders. Loving and appreciating the younger, as a form of affection and social responsibility. Speak polite language, as well as maintain attitudes and ethics in daily interactions, both at home, school, and in the community.

Habituation of Manners and Prayers in Every Activity. Every child's activity is directed to always begin with good intentions, correct manners, and prayers in accordance with the sunnah, such as prayers and manners before and after sleeping, entering and exiting the bathroom, before and after eating and drinking, going in and out of the house, when going to travel, prayers and manners before and after studying. With this habit, children are expected to grow in the awareness that all daily activities are part of worship that must be carried out with full responsibility and noble manners.

The Habit of Congregational Obligatory Prayers. Children are encouraged and accustomed to carry out obligatory prayers in congregation in the mosque, in order to form discipline, love for the mosque, and strengthen the Islamic ukhuwah among fellow worshippers. Understand the meaning and wisdom of prayer so that they do not only carry it out as a routine, but as a means of communication with Allah SWT. Active Involvement in Mosque and Religious Social Activities. Children are guided to actively participate in various religious activities in the mosque, such as Mosque Youth Activities (recitations, social services, Islamic studies, etc.). Celebrations of Islamic Holidays (PHBI), such as the Prophet's Birthday, Isra Mi'raj, Islamic New Year, and others. Social activities, such as sharing food, compensation to the poor, and helping residents in need.

Cultivate Social Spirit and Concern for Others. We also instill the spirit of sharing and social care by accustoming children to give alms to underprivileged residents. Teaching the value of sincerity, empathy, and solidarity with the surrounding community. Through this habituation, children will be formed into civilized, faithful, and charitable individuals. We hope that from waking up to going back to sleep, all children's activities will always be framed with manners, noble morals, and righteous intentions because of Allah SWT. "Whoever teaches a good thing, he will be rewarded like the one who does it." (HR. Muslim)

The biggest challenge in shaping the morals and character of children in the dormitory is their diverse backgrounds. *"These children come from different regions, families, and environments. Their characters also vary, some come from a bad environment, some are used to living in seclusion, and some even come from other dormitory environments such as army or police dormitories,"* he explained. This makes the parenting process more complex than raising one's own biological children. *"Bringing them together in one parenting concept is not easy. Therefore, we as caregivers must find the right way so that they can adapt and feel comfortable in the dormitory,"* she concluded.

In an effort to foster the morals of the dormitory children, the management implements rules that must be obeyed by all children. With this rule, children learn about their obligations and rights. If anyone violates the rules, there will be consequences. On the other hand, if they carry out their obligations well, such as diligently praying at night or memorizing the Qur'an, they will get rewards. This system is designed to keep children motivated in carrying out worship and understand that every action has consequences. The Orphan Friends Dormitory also has a special program that focuses on religious education and character building. This program comes from two sources, namely from the dormitory management and from the central management. Dormitory administrators, called abi and umi, apply the concept of learning in the style of a pesantren, such as memorization deposits. From the central management, there is a child development program that is held twice a month through Zoom Meeting. This program aims to shape children's character and is given by a team from Orphan Friends. In addition, there are also routine activities such as mutual cooperation

every Sunday, karate martial arts held by the Medan City government, as well as hadroh and muhadharah arts that train children in cult and leadership. Every year, rihlah or recreation activities are held as a place of togetherness and refreshment for children and administrators. In the month of Ramadan, they participate in a flash pesantren involving all dormitories in the city of Medan.

In shaping children's characters, dormitories also collaborate with outside parties, especially schools. The administrators communicate with the school to ensure that the dormitory children receive special attention according to their needs. In fact, in some cases, the school provides special policies related to education fees for boarding children. In addition, boarding children are also often involved in school activities as part of their learning process and social interaction. To ensure that Islamic values are still properly applied in the dormitory environment, the existing rules are strictly enforced. Children are taught not to abandon prayer and to prioritize their worship. For example, they are taught to go to the mosque immediately when the call to prayer resounds without delay. In addition, they are also taught ethics in interacting with older people and how to be polite in daily life. As social beings who need others in every aspect of our lives, interaction and communication are very important. Communication is a human activity in the process of interaction between one or more people, the concept of communication is not only about something related to the problem of how to speak effectively but also about how ethical in speaking (Ramadhani & Simamora, 2022). Through good communication with the community, it can also assess the moral ethics of the children mentioned.

Success in forming a generation with good morals is measured by changes in children's behavior while in the dormitory. The management monitors the development of the children from the beginning of their entry until after some time of living in the dormitory. Success indicators include changes in worship habits, concern for themselves, and their attitude and manners towards others. The parenting applied refers to the concept taught by Ali bin Abi Talib, which is to divide the stages of children's education into three phases: the first phase (0-7 years) where children are treated like kings, the second phase (8-15 years) where children begin to be taught the values of goodness and the difference between right and wrong, and the third phase (16-21 years) where children are treated as friends so that they can open up and get solutions in facing problems.

In addition to the educational and character building aspects, the dormitory also ensures that children get guaranteed education up to a higher level. Children living in dormitories are covered until they finish school. If they want to continue their studies, the cost of education will be borne by the central management, even up to the S2 level if they have the desire and ability to continue it. However, there are also children who after completing their education choose to return to their hometowns or live with their families. Before they leave the dormitory, they will be equipped with skills to have abilities that can be used in daily life. The Orphan Friends Dormitory is not careless in accepting foster children. They only take care of orphans who still have family or relatives to contact. Children are also allowed to return to their hometowns at certain moments, such as during Eid, before returning to the dormitory to continue their education and coaching.

Activities at the Medan Aksara Orphan Dormitory have proven to be able to increase the achievements of foster children, both at school and in competitions. The activity program organized by the Medan Aksara Orphan Dormitory has a significant positive impact on improving children's achievement with continuous support through character development, tutoring, and skills training

to make children more confident and excel in various competitions. So as to create good achievements for the child such as:

Andrea Wyldan :

1. Memorization of the Qur'an Juz 1, 29, and 30
2. 1st Place at the Medan City Beginner Karate Festival in 2024
3. Gold Medalist of the 2025 High School Biology Olympiad, High School Mathematics (Indonesian Olympics – OI)
4. Tahfidz Juz 30 Champion at the Junior High School Level IC Indonesia
5. 1st place starting from grade 1 to grade 3 of SMP ICI Medan

Named Ahmad Zakir Nasution :

1. Memorization of the Qur'an Juz 28, 29, 30
2. 1st Place in Tahfidz Al-Qur'an Juz 30 Children's Category of SD Miftahul Jannah Medan

Bram Lismilhaq :

1. Memorization of the Qur'an Juz 29, 30
2. The Best Commander of Paskibra at the Junior High School Level in Medan City in 2024

Farhansyah :

1. Memorization of the Qur'an Juz 1, 28, 29 and 30
2. 2nd Place in the 2023 National Inter-Orphanage Tahsin Olympiad

Mr. Alhafizh Adha:

1. Memorization of the Qur'an Juz 29, 30

Discussion

The Orphan Friends Dormitory, which was established in 2009 in Tangerang, started from a community of young people who care about orphans, the poor, and the poor. As public trust increased, this foundation developed into the National Amil Zakat Institution in 2021. This development is in line with research (Siregar, 2019) which shows that public trust can increase the role of social institutions in managing zakat and alms funds.

The Orphan Friends Dormitory has been operating in Medan since 2019, with three branches each accommodating 10 to 13 children. The restriction on the number of children aims to allow caregivers to give maximum attention, in accordance with research findings (Rahmadaini, 2023) which emphasizes the importance of the caregiver-child ratio in effective character building.

The vision of the Orphan Friends Dormitory is to become the leading amil zakat institution in Indonesia, with a focus on collection, empowerment, education, and nurturing. The field of parenting is carried out through dormitories spread across various regions, in line with research (Farikhin & Muhid, 2022) which emphasizes the role of orphanages in providing proper education and nurturing for orphans.

Caregivers in the dormitory act as teachers, parents, and friends for children. They are equipped with parenting knowledge through training organized by the management of Sahabat Yatim. This is in line with research that (Fitri Aswanto et al., 2024) emphasizing the importance of the role of caregivers in shaping the religious character of children in orphanages.

Islamic values are the main guideline in the management of the dormitory. This dormitory is designed like a house so that children feel comfortable and do not feel different from other children.

The importance of a dormitory environment that supports the psychological development of children. Empathetic and spiritual communicative relationships between caregivers and foster children play a major role in instilling noble moral values (Siregar, N. M., & Simamora, 2024).

Children are accustomed to living a disciplined life in accordance with Islamic teachings from waking up to returning to sleep. They were schooled in Islamic schools and were accustomed to praying in congregation, reading the Qur'an, and undergoing tahfidz programs. This approach is in line with research (Farikhin & Muhid, 2022) which emphasizes the importance of instilling Islamic educational values in orphans through out-of-school education.

Caregivers also play a role in guiding children to understand and practice Islamic teachings in daily life. They emphasized that kindness must be forced at first so that later it becomes a habit. This approach is in line with research (Nasution, 2022) which emphasizes the importance of the role of caregivers in shaping the discipline of foster children in orphanages.

The biggest challenge in shaping the morals and character of children in the dormitory is their diverse backgrounds. This makes the parenting process more complex than raising one's own biological children. Research shows that caregivers must find the right way for children to adapt and feel comfortable in the dorm (Jannah, 2022).

In an effort to foster the morals of the dormitory children, the management implements rules that must be obeyed by all children. If anyone violates the rules, there will be consequences. On the other hand, if they carry out their obligations well, they will get rewards. The system is designed to keep children motivated in carrying out worship and understand that every action has consequences, according to research (Jannah, 2022) which emphasized the importance of applying religious understanding for children in orphanages.

The Orphan Friends Dormitory also has a special program that focuses on religious education and character building. This program comes from two sources, namely from the dormitory management and from the central management. This approach is in line with research (Rahmawati, 2023) which emphasizes the importance of implementing Islamic educational values in strengthening the Islamic character of foster children in orphanages.

The guarantee of education up to a higher level provided by the Orphan Friends Dormitory, including education fees up to the S2 level for those who want and are able, shows a commitment to ensuring the future of foster children. This is in line with the findings (Azyzah, 2021), where the development of children's character through the implementation of Islamic boarding school-based education aims to form the character of discipline, independence, and responsibility in foster children.

The selectivity in accepting foster children implemented by the Orphan Friends Dormitory, which is only taking care of orphans who still have family or relatives who can be contacted, and allowing children to return home at certain moments such as Eid, shows an approach that pays attention to the emotional well-being of children. This approach was also found in research (Suarmini et al., 2019), where activities such as joint meetings, study together, shared vacations, yoga together, and gardening together are applied to instill character values and build social integration among orphanage residents.

Overall, the approach and methods applied by the Orphan Friends Dormitory in fostering the morals and character of its foster children are in line with the findings in previous research in various

orphanages in Indonesia. This shows that the application of Islamic values, habituation and exemplary methods, special programs, collaboration with outside parties, strict application of rules, and continuous education guarantee are key factors in the formation of the character of orphans in orphanages.

CONCLUSION

Based on this research, the Orphan Friends Dormitory has an important role in shaping the character and morals of orphans through an approach based on Islamic values. With a parenting system that involves formal and non-formal education, children are guided to develop discipline, religiosity, and social skills. Caregivers play a key role in providing education and moral coaching, so that children can grow up in an environment that supports their psychological and spiritual development. This is in line with various studies that emphasize the importance of the role of dormitories in orphan education.

In addition, programs at the Orphan Friends Dormitory, such as character development, tahfidz Al-Qur'an, as well as the reward and punishment system, have proven to be effective in building discipline and good habits in foster children. With an approach that adapts to the individual needs of children, these dormitories can create a comfortable environment conducive to their development. This study confirms that the success of parenting in boarding depends heavily on the right coaching methods as well as the support of competent and attentive caregivers.

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